

CONFIDENTIAL

17 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Reconfirmation of Continuing Area Division Need for the
TSS Hydrogen Generator**

1. On 14 March the undersigned contacted [] of SE/G 25X1 regarding recent correspondence concerned with the extended use of "illuminating gas" for leaflet ballooning. This topic is of pointed interest since TSS/ED is currently engaged in proof testing a hydrogen generator to meet the ballooning needs of this operation.

2. The correspondence has indicated that the use of "illuminating gas" has proved exceptionally satisfactory for the purposes of this operation and its continued use is desirable if possible. It can be used on a scale that could obviate the necessity for the hydrogen generator currently being worked on by TSS. If volume available, cost and technical considerations were the only ones to apply.

3. [] voiced the opinion that there is one paramount considera-25X1 tion that must be taken into account in any decision regarding the use of illuminating gas vs. the use of the generator. This is the fact that the illuminating gas depends upon political control and influence for a continuing source of supply whereas the generator is far more independent. [] also was of the opinion that at the least the generator should be 25X1 available in reserve if not in active use.

4. A cable has been sent to the field requesting the opinion of the project officers as regards their needs for the generator in the light of the illuminating gas substitute. The field personnel will cast the deciding vote on this problem and their answer is currently awaited.

5. It may be of interest to explain that the term illuminating gas as used in this operation is something of a misnomer and covers all the gases commonly called coal gas, water gas, heating gas and city gas. Whether any of these have illuminates added in this modern society is open to question but since the term illuminating gas was first used for this project and is a fairly popular term, no good reason is seen for changing.

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